



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of New Hampshire*

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**MEDIA RELEASE
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**NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA
("NEW ENGLAND HIDTA") TASK FORCE**

GUILTY PLEA ENTERED IN SALEM MARIJUANA RING CASE

Re: United States v. Jose Madera

Concord, New Hampshire -- United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, Drug Enforcement Administration Resident Agent in Charge Leo Ducey, and Salem Police Chief Paul Donovan announced that **Jose L. MADERA**, date of birth March 18, 1981, of Methuen, Massachusetts was convicted on federal marijuana distribution charges.

Madera entered a guilty plea before U.S. District Judge Paul J. Barbadoro to an information charging him with Possession with intent to distribute marijuana. Judge Barbadoro detained Madera without bail pending his sentencing hearing scheduled for September 23, 2003 in U.S. District Court in Concord. Madera faces a maximum sentence of five years imprisonment.

Madera was arrested on November 12, 2003 along with seven others as part of a sting operation conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration's Northern New England High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area ("New England HIDTA") Task Force and the Salem Police Department. A Criminal Complaint against these individuals, issued by U.S. Magistrate Judge James R. Muirhead on January 22, 2003, alleged that they participated in a conspiracy to distribute over 100 kilos of marijuana in southeastern New Hampshire and northeastern Massachusetts between January, 2000 and November, 2002.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated, "This case demonstrates our Office's commitment to aggressively prosecuting drug traffickers, and especially those who conduct drug trafficking operations along New Hampshire's southern tier, and over the Massachusetts border. This case is a prime example of the effectiveness of New England HIDTA, and the Northern New England HIDTA Task Force. I will continue to commit federal resources to these efforts."

The prosecution is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph N. Laplante, the Lead Attorney for the District of New Hampshire in the New England Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (“New England OCDETF”).